

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SO, CU
SUBJ: SRSP, CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY SIGN AGREEMENT

1. THE OFFICIAL SOMALI-LANGUAGE DAILY NEWSPAPER, OCTOBER STAR, REPORTED ON DECEMBER 13 THAT AN AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL SUPPORT AND COOPERATION HAD BEEN SIGNED IN HAVANA BETWEEN THE SOMALI REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY (SRSP) AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA (PCC). THE PACT WAS SIGNED ON THE SOMALI SIDE BY FIRST VICE PRESIDENT MOHAMED ALI SAMANTAR (WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE SRSP POLITBURO), WHILE RAUL CASTRO, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CUBAN PARTY, SIGNED FOR THE PCC. SAMANTAR IS VISITING CUBA TO ATTEND FESTIVITIES COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIDEL'S RETURN TO THE ISLAND.

2. COMMENT: THE AGREEMENT IS THE FIRST TO BE MADE PUBLIC BETWEEN THE SRSP AND A FOREIGN PARTY. SAMANTAR HEADED A PARTY/STATE DELEGATION TO THE SOVIET UNION SHORTLY AFTER THE SRSP'S ESTABLISHMENT BUT NO INTER-PARTY AGREEMENT WAS NOTED AT THAT TIME. THE SRSP/PCC PACT PROBABLY IS INTENDED TO FORMALIZE THE GROWING CUBAN POLITICAL PRESENCE IN SOMALIA. FOR THE PAST 18 MONTHS, CUBAN PARTY CADRES HAVE BEEN PROVIDING IDEOLOGICAL AND PARAMILITARY TRAINING TO THE GUULWADAYAAL ("VICTORY PIONEERS") YOUTH ORGANIZATION. CUBAN FUNCTIONARIES ARE SAID ALSO TO BE ASSISTING SRSP MOBILIZATION EFFORTS WITHIN GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND PARASTATAL ENTERPRISES.
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